

Application Serial No. 09/878,744
Amendment dated October 6, 2003
Reply to Office Action of April 4, 2003

REMARKS

New claims 49-60 have been added. The allowance of claims 14-34, 37, 41-44 and 46/14, 47, 48, as well as the allowability of claims 3-10, are noted with appreciation. Re-examination and reconsideration of the application, in view of the amendments above and the remarks below, are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 35, 36, 45 and 46/1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by MacQueen U.S. Patent No. 5,854,690, and rejected claims 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over MacQueen in view of DiClementi et al U.S. Patent No. 6,088,923. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The Examiner stated that "MacQueen discloses a snowplow and snowplow mount assembly having all of Applicants' claim structure including a mount frame 16, a snowplow frame 12, arms and receivers, first and second latch pins 70 and 70' normally biased toward a latched position by spring 78, and a latch lever 76 operably associated with the latch pins for simultaneously freeing and moving the latch pins as shown in Figs. 7 and 8 and described in columns 7 and 8." The Examiner did not specify which elements were MacQueen's "arms and receivers." In reviewing the disclosure of MacQueen, it will be seen that the only "arms" are the two legs 96 and 96' of the plow lifting frame 24, and the only "receivers" are the steel tubes 98 and 98' of the vehicle mounting frame 16, which steel tubes 98 and 98' receive the legs 96 and 96'. However, "arms" 96 and 96' are secured in "receivers"

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98 and 98' with pull pins 102 and 102'. Pull pins 102 and 102' are not "normally biased toward said latched position," nor does MacQueen have "a latch lever operably associated with said first and second latch pins for simultaneously freeing said latch pins to move to said latched position and moving said latch pins to said unlatched position," as claimed in claim 1, or "a latch lever operably associated with said first and second latch pins for simultaneously actuating said latch pins to latched and unlatched positions," as claimed in independent claim 2. Independent claims 35 and 36, both method claims, are similar to claim 1, above. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that MacQueen does not in fact teach each and every feature of independent claims 1, 2, 35 and 36, and dependent claims 11, 12, 13, 45 and 46, contrary to the Examiner's assertion otherwise. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

It is submitted that DiClementi et al supplies none of the deficiencies of MacQueen. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the §103(a) rejection of claims 38-40 on the basis of MacQueen in view of DiClementi et al is also in error; reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Lastly, new claims 49-60 are submitted herewith. It is respectfully submitted that these claims also defined patentable subject matter.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all of the claims pending in the application are in a condition for allowance. Re-examination of the application is respectfully requested, and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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